

# CHAPTER I—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## SUBCHAPTER D—WATER PROGRAMS

### PART 136—GUIDELINES ESTABLISHING TEST PROCEDURES FOR THE ANALYSIS OF POLLUTANTS (An Excerpt)

#### 40 CFR 136.3(e)

(e) Sample preservation procedures, container materials, and maximum allowable holding times for parameters cited in Tables IA, IB, IC, ID, and IE are prescribed in Table II. Any person may apply for a variance from the prescribed preservation techniques, container materials, and maximum holding times applicable to samples taken from a specific discharge. Applications for variances may be made by letters to the Regional Administrator in the Region in which the discharge will occur. Sufficient data should be provided to assure such variance does not adversely affect the integrity of the sample. Such data will be forwarded, by the Regional Administrator, to the Director of the Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory—Cincinnati, Ohio for technical review and recommendations for action on the variance application. Upon receipt of the recommendations from the Director of the Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory, the Regional Administrator may grant a variance applicable to the specific charge to the applicant. A decision to approve or deny a variance will be made within 90 days of receipt of the application by the Regional Administrator.

TABLE II—REQUIRED CONTAINERS, PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES, AND HOLDING TIMES

<u>Parameter No./name</u>	<u>Container</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Preservation</u> <sup>2,3</sup>	<u>Maximum holding time</u> <sup>4</sup>
28. <b>Hydrogen ion (pH)</b> .....	P, G .....	None required .....	<b>Analyze immediately.</b>

<sup>4</sup> Samples should be analyzed as soon as possible after collection. The times listed are the maximum times that samples may be held before analysis and still be considered valid. Samples may be held for longer periods only if the permittee, or monitoring laboratory, has data on file to show that for the specific types of samples under study, the analytes are stable for the longer time, and has received a variance from the Regional Administrator under § 136.3(e). Some samples may not be stable for the maximum time period given in the table. A permittee, or monitoring laboratory, is obligated to hold the sample for a shorter time if knowledge exists to show that this is necessary to maintain sample stability. See § 136.3(e) for details. **The term “analyze immediately” usually means within 15 minutes or less of sample collection.**